

Farms For The Future
Phase 1. Technical Assistance Grants For Business Plan Development

1. Eligibility Requirements

An applicant must own at least 5 acres of land in agricultural use and must submit an application to the Department to be eligible for participation in the program.

2. Farms For The Future Criteria For Selection

Criteria for Selection	Points
The degree of opportunity for increasing the vitality of the farm due to:	
The number of years and type of agricultural experience and training of the applicant and/or co-applicant	25
The condition and suitability of the physical resources of the farm (land and soils, equipment and buildings)	20
The degree of threat to the continuation of agricultural use of the land due to:	
Development pressure	20
The management capability of the applicant to effect positive changes in farm operations	
Financial capacity – debt load	5
Profitability -net farm income	10
Production efficiencies	5
Other management practices	5
Increase farm product value	5
Increase competitiveness	5
TOTAL	100

Last Name _____

**Application
Farms for the Future
Phase I
Business Plan Development Program**

If you farm 5 or more acres that you own, anticipate keeping your land in agriculture for at least 5 years and you have an idea for making a change or improvement that will make you more economically and/or environmentally sound, we encourage you to fill out this application. You may be eligible for technical assistance in developing a business plan. A second phase will provide financial assistance to implement the plan (25% of need up to \$25,000). It is our goal to help you if we can.

The questions in the application are designed to guide you in giving us the information we need. What is important is that you give us a clear picture of where you are and what your vision is. Please do the best you can to describe your current situation and your idea for change in the space provided. If you are downloading the application, please note that it is a 4-page document. It is important that the pages and spacing stay the same, especially pages 2 and 3. This is all the Review Panel sees.

Phase 1 Implementation grants will be awarded based on the results of Phase 1. There will be opportunities to apply for these grants in the spring and fall.

The deadline for this round is August 29, 2004. I recommend that you submit now so I can inform you of any changes. Please return to Mort Mather, CEI, 2 Portland Fish Pier, Portland, ME 04101.

Name _____

Farm _____ County _____

Address _____

Town _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Cell _____

Fax _____ E-mail _____

Town _____ County _____

Total farmland acreage owned _____

Total owned acres in production _____

How long have you been farming this land? _____

How long have you owned it? _____

What is your farming background?

What else in your background contributes to your capability as a farm manager?

Describe idea for change in 6 words or less, then in a paragraph.

Describe anticipated economic benefit of the proposed change.

Will this change have a positive environmental effect? If yes, describe.

Describe suitability and productivity of the land for agricultural use based on its soil classification, physical features and location.

List:

Equipment Owned	Condition

Buildings (type and size)	Condition

Gross income from farm last year \$ _____

Acreage you lease _____ Acreage leased from you _____

This farm is primarily (If more than one apply, number in order of income):

__diversified __greenhouse __beef __vegetables __flowers __dairy
__grain __herbs __sheep __berries __ornamentals __poultry __orchard
__potted plants __horses __maple syrup __mushrooms
__commodity-other please list

Products and Services and Income

Farm Product	Acres Involved	Buildings Involved	'04 Anticipated gross/net	2003 gross/net	2002 gross/net

Please identify any farm debt, including mortgage. If none, so state.

Amount outstanding	Held by	Payment Schedule

Family members living on the farm

Family member	% of time working on farm	% of time working off farm	Off-farm income
Owner		*	\$
			\$
			\$
			\$

*If the owner is not principally engaged in agricultural activities, please state the short and long-term plans for keeping the property in agricultural use.

Describe any pressure that might cause you to stop farming.

You must fill in and sign the form below.

I/we, _____ authorize a
(print)

representative of the Maine Department of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources to
conduct a field inspection of the land to be covered by the plan.

The information in this form is factual.

Signature of owner(s)

Send Application to: CEI, 2 Portland Fish Pier, Suite 20 1, Portland, ME 04101
Phone: 207-772-5356, ext. 114; e-mail: mkm@ceimaine.org

ATTACHMENTS REQUIRED

Copies of Schedule F or I I 20S forms for the 3 most recent tax years. If not available, describe why, what you have been doing toward making the farm viable, and describe the condition of the acreage.

PLEASE NOTE: The following is required of all successful applicants. If you receive a grant of technical assistance, you must submit the following items before any work can begin. It is strongly advised that you line up this information in advance, especially the NRCS map and farm plan.

- A map of the property on a United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) Topographical Map showing the land area to be covered by the plan, and the land to be covered by a possible farmland protection agreement, if different than the land covered by the plan.
- A United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources and Conservation Service map and farm plan, or its equivalent, showing the breakdown of various soil types and acreage possessing soil capability Classes I through A. (if you do not have this item, you should begin the process now.)
- Letters of reference concerning management capability.
- A copy of the current deed(s) to all the parcels of the property and a plan recorded in the registry of deeds delineating the property, book and page numbers included.

8/13/04